

2024 Maurer Kövidinka 1925

Subotica, Serbia

When we first visited Oszkár Maurer in 2015, he only had a few wines to show. Since then, he expanded his production into the Fruška Gora, opened a tasting room/restaurant, and redefined what many of these nearly forgotten grapes taste like, while always keeping a close eye on the traditions of both his grandparents and the region's 2000+ years of documented winemaking history. His aesthetic and philosophy are starting to permeate everything above and beyond the vineyards and cellar.

VINEYARDS

The Maurer family has been producing wine for four generations. They now farm 6 hectares in the Subotičko-Horgoškoj region in northern Serbia including the oldest known Kadarka vineyard in the world planted in 1880 in addition to other plantings in 1912 and older plots of Kövidinka from 1925. The rest of the plantings include grapes like Olaszrizling, Slankamenka, Ezerjó, Kadarka and Kékfrankos. There's also few international varieties including Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Pinot Noir. The region was formerly a part of Hungary's Csongrád up until 1920 and names of grapes and places are therefore constantly changing from Serbian to Hungarian and vice-versa. Oszkár also has 9 hectares in the Srem region a little further south. The main feature, apart from the Danube River, is the Fruška Gora Mountain. Once an island in the Pannonian Sea, the soil is volcanic with a marine layer. Called the "holy mountain" or "Serbian Athos", there were over 30 monasteries at one point, of which 16 still stand today. Needless to say, there is something special about this place and winegrowing is documented back to the 1200s. The Subotičko is largely defined by sandy soils and old vines, and the Szerémség by volcanic soils heavily influenced by the Danube River. Everything is farmed organically with zero absorbable chemicals. High density stake trained vines are the most typical and cover crops are natural. Everything is worked by hand or with the help of horses. Harvest is managed with local labor and the help of family and friends.

WINE MAKING

Everything is handpicked in small bins and all fermentations are spontaneous. The use of older oak, small and large format is paramount. There are no additives to any of the wines apart from SO₂ at bottling for select wines. Maurer basically has two tiers: Rege and Maurer. The Rege wines have low SO₂ (25-40ppm) and the Maurer line is zero compromise with zero additions of any kind. Wines are typically only racked once before bottling and everything is bottled unfiltered.

NOTES & PAIRINGS

Planted in 1925 in what looks like pure beach sand, the combination of a super resilient local grape variety and low disease pressure make it one of the best price to quality ratio wines from the area. We've heard it described fondly as green apples meets rich mineral spa water, but with a little maceration, it almost smells like a dead ringer for Spanish cider meets something umami and otherly. Harvested after the first frost in late October, it spent 3 days on the skins followed by 6 months in 500L barrels. There's an additional spice and concentration despite the less than 11.5% alcohol. In some years most of this finds its way into blends, but in exceptional vintages we find it all on its own. Pungent, vibrant and yet pretty effortless to drink. Bottled unfinned and unfiltered by gravity.

ANALYTICS & PRONUNCIATION

APPELLATION: Subotica

GRAPE COMPOSITION: 100% Kövidinka

CLIMATE: Mild and temperate

SOILS: Sand

MACERATION & AGING: 3 days of skin contact, 6 months in 500L barrel

ALCOHOL: 11.5%

RESIDUAL SUGAR: 2.05 g/l

ACIDITY: 6.72 g/l



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